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## Book Reviews

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## BOOK REVIEWS

*Let There Be Towns: Spanish Municipal Origins in the American Southwest, 1610-1810*, by Gilbert R. Cruz. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843) 1989. Bibliography. Index. Illustrations. Photos. P. 236. \$24.95 Hardcover.

Much has been written about the roles of the *presidio* and the mission in history books, but Gilbert R. Cruz's well-written and well-documented book, *Let There Be Towns*, recognizes the overlooked and real importance of the civil settlement, or town, in Borderlands history. As Donald C. Cutter poignantly points out in his Foreword, this book will cause many Borderlands scholars and students to alter their thinking about the relative importance of these three pillars of civilization in New Spain.

An opening chapter on the Iberian origins of the municipalities in New Spain is followed by chapters detailing the founding and early development of six classic frontier towns in northern New Spain: Santa Fe, El Paso, San Antonio, Laredo, San Jose, and Los Angeles. Later chapters describe the life of civilian settlers of northern frontier towns and the function of the *cabildo*, that guardian of justice and social order in the Borderlands.

The author convincingly supports his thesis that town settlements and their civil governments in northern New Spain were more important and durable than the more glamorous missions and *presidios*.

Moreover, the reader will realize that many of our ideas and practices of democratic government today came to us from Spain as well as England.

This book should interest all East Texas history scholars and buffs. The case study of San Antonio, especially, established as a halfway post to East Texas, would apply also to the municipal settlements of Los Adaes, Bucareli, Nacogdoches, and Trinidad de Salcedo.

Robert H. Thonhoff  
Karnes City, Texas

*Mary Austin Holley, A Biography*, by Rebecca Smith Lee (University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713) 1988. Photographs. Notes. Bibliography. Index. P. 447. \$12.95 Paper.

Mary Austin Holley, born before the Constitution was ratified and buried just as the Mexican War began, lived at least a century too early. Wife, mother, biographer, poet, essayist, teacher, indefatigable traveler, and discreet lobbyist for Texas, this remarkable woman would have been more at home in the late twentieth century than in the narrow confines of a nineteenth-century woman's place.

Rebecca Lee Smith's biography, wonderfully rich in detail in the best "life and times" tradition, is also a skillfully balanced study of the

“life and works” variety that traces Mary Austin Holley’s intellectual progress as well as the peripatetic course of her life as she moved from New England to Kentucky to Texas to Louisiana.

Mary Holley is best known as the cousin of Stephen F. Austin and the author of *Texas: Observations: Historical, Geographical, and Descriptive in a Series of Letters* (1833) and *Texas* (1836), but she was a minor poet and essayist before that, and her first major work was the compilation of a memorial to her husband, who died of yellow fever in 1827. *A Discourse on the Genius and Character of the Rev. Horace Holley, LL.D., Late President of Transylvania University...* was published in 1828.

Widowed at forty-three, Mary Holley may have had a romantic interest in her bachelor cousin, Stephen Fuller Austin, nine years younger than she, but his untimely death in 1836 dashed her hopes of ending her days with him in Texas. Reduced to genteel poverty, dependent on the kindness of her daughter and her husband’s former students, Mary Holley died in New Orleans at the age of sixty-two. Her books on Texas assured her lasting fame, and Rebecca Smith Lee’s biography ensures her place in the history of American women as well as the history of Texas.

Virginia Bernhard  
University of St. Thomas

*William Barret Travis, A Biography*, by Archie P. McDonald (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 90159, Austin, TX 78709) 1976. Index. Bibliography. P. 214. \$15.95 Hardcover.

Apart from his final few days, during which he wrote a famous letter and may or may not have drawn a line in the Alamo dirt, just how much do most Texans *really* know about William Barret Travis the man?

More now, for sure, than they did before Archie P. McDonald produced the first legitimate biography of Travis in a 1976 Pemberton Press publication, now reissued by Eakin Press.

Not secondary to the facts of Travis’ short life, McDonald’s fluent narration of the events leading up to San Antonio makes this one of the very better portraits of a revolution which helped to reshape a continent.

Programmed by genes to look westward always, Travis arrived in Texas early enough to involve himself at Anahuac and Gonzales, following a path which led inexorably to the siege at Bexar.

Not that he was born with the white hat he wore in the movie by which most know him! Wed to a wife he left in Alabama, Travis kept a Texas diary which offers, if not a new definition, at least an early meaning to the activity understood today as scoring.

If you missed this the first time around, correct the mistake now.

Max S. Lale  
Marshall and Fort Worth, Texas

*The Battle of San Jacinto*, by James W. Pohl (Austin: Texas State Historical Association. P. 49. Illustrations and Map. \$4.50).

Late in the 1970s F. Lee Lawrence, a prominent lawyer from Tyler who was President of the Texas State Historical Association, urged the Association's Executive Council to publish a series of popular histories. His purpose was to provide short, readable works that all Texans could enjoy. Lawrence was successful. Over the past several years Texas historians have written readable monographs entitled *The Old Stone Fort*, *The Battle of the Alamo*, and *The French Legation*. James W. Pohl, a military historian at Southwest Texas State University, has added to this series with *The Battle of San Jacinto*.

Pohl aptly followed the series format. He clearly and concisely explained the causes leading to revolution against Mexico, and discussed the events during a six-and-one-half-month period beginning with a skirmish at Gonzales between Mexican and Texian forces on October 2, 1835 to the concluding battle at San Jacinto on April 21, 1836. He evaluated Sam Houston's role as commander-in-chief of the Texian forces as well as his strategy during what was known as the Runaway Scrape, which began with the torching of Gonzales on March 11. And he has painted a vivid picture of the battle, presenting an objective account of the Mexicans and Texians in this engagement. Pohl has added to the understanding of Texas history.

Ben Procter  
Texas Christian University

*Life of "Big Foot" Wallace: The Great Ranger Captain*, by A.J. Sowell (State House Press, P.O. Box 15247, Austin, TX 78761) 1989. Illustrations. Appendix. Index. P. 200. \$12.95 Paper. \$19.95 Hardcover. \$50.00 Limited ed. (50)

The above title is purported to be a reprint of A.J. Sowell's *Life of "Big Foot" Wallace: The Great Ranger Captain* (published at Devine, Texas, by the *Devine News?*, 1899, with illustrations, portrait), when, in truth, it is not a reprint, but a doctored, distorted version of Sowell's book edited by Mike Cox and the State House Press, with twelve imaginary, double-page, black-and-white uncaptioned pictures drawn by Charles Shaw. There is a completely new title-page.

This is a biography of the great Texas frontiersman, hunter, ranger, Indian and Mexican fighter, and great story-teller, William Alexander Anderson ("Big Foot") Wallace. Editor Cox and the State House Press have changed the structure of Sowell's sentences; added, changed, and omitted words; changed capitulations; and corrected Sowell's spelling of words and names, but have failed, because of their limited knowledge, to recognize that there are other names misspelled; and "d--d" becomes

“damned” (p. 54). They have eliminated “racial slurs,” as they call them, that appear in Sowell’s book. For instance, “nigger” becomes “negro,” (p. 48), without the dignity of being capitalized.

Cox’s introduction is devoted largely to a biographical sketch of Andrew Jackson Sowell, his writings, and his associations with Wallace. In it he refers to John Crittenden Duval’s *Adventures of Big Foot Wallace* as being that of John D. Duval (p. viii). Wallace did not like Duval’s biography and stories of him by others. He claimed that no story of his life was correct except as it was told in a series of interviews with a A.J. Sowell. Research scholars should be wary of the current biography of Wallace edited by Mike Cox and the State House Press.

The only redeeming feature of the current publication is the addition of a limited index of personal names and places. Added as an appendix is a letter written by W.A.A. Wallace to the reviewer’s cousin, Miss N[ora] C[lifton] Franklin, San Marcos, [Texas], [dated] Big Foot Oct. 13/88, concerning some of the author’s experiences on the Texan Mier Expedition, 1842-1844.

Joseph Milton Nance  
Texas A&M University

*Cry Comanche, The 2nd U.S. Cavalry in Texas, 1855-1861*, by Colonel Harold B. Simpson (Hill College Press, Hillsboro, Texas) 1988. Footnotes. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. P. 186. \$15.00 Hardcover.

It is doubtful that any other researcher could come up with another significant fact that has any bearing on the story of the 2nd U.S. Cavalry in Texas. Beginning with a short history of the cavalry in general, Simpson tells of the organization of the regiment at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, in 1855. He then follows the unit to Texas and writes a complete history of its times until it was broken up in 1861.

Mention is made of famous officers who were in the regiment, including Robert E. Lee, Albert Sidney Johnston, Earl Van Dorn, and William J. Hardee. Many enlisted men were also listed, as well as their adventures afield and in camp. From Indian fights to wife’s gossip, it is all there.

This book should be read by anyone interested in the defense of the forts of Texas, or in cavalry and Indian fighting in general. While the first two chapters are a bit slow, the tempo picks up as interest in the famous regiment grows.

Jack Pirtle  
Nacogdoches, Texas

*Correspondence of James K. Polk, Volume VII, January-August 1844*, by Wayne Cutler and James P. Cooper, Jr., editors (Vanderbilt University Press, 1211 Eighteenth Ave. South, Nashville, TN 37312) 1989. Maps. Calendar. Index. P. 561. \$32.50 Hardcover.

Covering the months from January to August 1844, volume VII of the *Correspondence of James K. Polk* gives a clear sense of the partisan nature of American life in this election year. Issues such as the annexation of Texas, the tariff, and the appropriate strategies for the nominating convention and the forthcoming election dominate correspondence to Polk and that written by him.

As in earlier volumes of this series, the editors have done a thorough job of annotating names mentioned in the letters and including brief descriptions of events referred to by the correspondents. These make the letters extremely valuable for anyone seeking a broader understanding of the political activities centering around Polk. The correspondence also provides excellent insight into the political "networking" that was necessary in this era of serious sectional divisions. As this reviewer browsed through the letters, he was struck by the all-consuming attention and focus that politics had in this era of American history. Also evident is the extreme partisanship of the participants. They often saw the opposition as less than suitable for continuing national leadership.

The "Preface" provides an excellent overview of and introduction to the volume. The editors give a brief, but comprehensive, summary of what occurred in these eight months. They also give the reader a sense of what the many events covered in the correspondence meant to Polk and his supporters and to the Democratic Party which wanted to recapture the presidency.

Volume VII of Polk's correspondence is a fine piece of editorial scholarship and will serve its users well. Anyone seeking to gain a sense of contemporary attitudes should read this and other volumes in the series which trace James K. Polk's trials and successes in his effort to become president.

William L. Taylor  
Plymouth State College

*Interpreting Southern History. Historiographical Essays in Honor of Sanford W. Higginbotham*, by John B. Boles and Evelyn Thomas Nolen, editors. (Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, LA. 70893) 1987. Index. P. 624. \$19.95 Paper.

There are many good, important books on Southern history. *Interpreting Southern History*, however, clearly belongs in the small, select group of works that are indispensable for serious students of the field. Picking up where its predecessor, *Writing Southern History* (1965) left

off, *Interpreting Southern History* describes the major developments in the field and discusses the major works published, 1965-1985. Although both volumes are dedicated to leading Southern historians (Fletcher Melvin Green and Sanford W. Higginbotham), this collection of historiographical essays is not by Higginbotham's former students but by leading scholars on the editorial board while he was editor of the *Journal of Southern History*, 1965-1983. This book is only twenty-four percent longer, but its index (books, articles, authors, and topics mentioned) is eighty-two percent longer than that of its predecessor.

In addition to showing increasing numbers of publications in Southern history, this volume illustrates basic changes in the field. Essays on religion by John B. Boles and on women by Jacquelyn Dowd Hall and Anne Firor Scott show the emergence of these topics. Scholars since 1965 have been less concerned with narrative, military, and political history and more aware of the influence of race, class, gender, and regional differences within the South. Their works have dealt more with social and intellectual (both elite thought and popular attitudes) history, and with quantitative, economic, urban, and local studies.

Two historians of or from East Texas are prominent in the book. Randolph B. (Mike) Campbell (author of a history of Harrison County, and an active member of the East Texas Historical Association), covered studies of "Planters and Plain Folks: The Social Structure of the Antebellum South." The book's main editor and essayist on "The Discovery of Southern Religious History," John B. Boles, grew up on a chicken farm in Center, Texas.

Robert G. Sherer  
Wiley College

*Historians of the American Frontier. A Bio-Bibliographical Sourcebook*, edited by John R. Wunder (Greenwood Press, 88 Post Road West, Westport, CT 06881) 1988. Bibliography. Index. P. 814.

*Historians of the American Frontier* is a reference work intended for libraries rather than individuals. Unless an individual had a pressing need for a volume of this sort, he or she would be better served by saving the purchase price and taking the few minutes necessary to retrieve the pertinent material on the particular frontier historian of interest, most of which is readily available from other sources.

For those who are contemplating acquiring this volume for a library, some things about its basic shape and structure are worth knowing. The book discusses briefly each of fifty-seven historians who have written on topics related to frontier history. The criteria for inclusion among these fifty-seven seem to be that the individual must be deceased, must have written about the frontier (broadly defined), must have made a contribu-

tion to the discipline (subjectively determined), and must be a historian (also broadly defined). The editor in his introduction admits that the results are somewhat incomplete, leaving out such obvious choices as Ernest Osgood, Reuben Gold Thwaites, and Le Roy Hafen, among others. The editor promises that another volume is to follow which will no doubt correct these omissions as well as include those frontier historians of note who have passed on since this volume went to press.

One suspects that the selection of historians discussed was as much a product of finding contributors as it was to any more rational process. The contributors have done a workmanlike job. Each chapter is divided into four subsections: biography, themes, analysis, and bibliography. For the better known historians such as Frederick Jackson Turner and Walter Prescott Webb, the bibliographies usually include a section on books and articles about the historian. A handy index is included.

This book is primarily a reference work which would be of value in a large library supporting class offerings in frontier and western history.

Robert T. Smith  
Eastern Montana College

*Texas High Sheriffs*, by Thad Sitton (Texas Monthly Press, P.O. Box 1569, Austin, TX 78767) 1988. Photographs. Notes. P. 279. \$17.95.

This excellent oral history can not only be read; it can be felt. The book consists of oral autobiographies of eleven men who served as sheriff in rural Texas counties from the 1880s to the present. Four of the interviewees represented East Texas counties.

Sitton masterfully elicits fascinating tales from his subjects, arranged in an appealing and gripping format. Very personalized creations for each sheriff preserve the auditory tone of the raw interviews and enhance the descriptive, illustrative, and informative values of each man's account. The comments of one sheriff's wife also are included most effectively. Each vignette snaps along in the shirt-sleeves prose of the sheriffs, with no editorial retouching to mar the individuality of each person.

The knowledgeable reader will perceive in each discourse attributes of rural sheriffing whose separate dots connect into a familiar picture of the office in rural Texas. Readers with less awareness of the institutional sheriff will still discern features that are intriguing, startling, amusing, poignant, and revealing. This is oral history that teaches without being pedantic; it amuses and bemuses — even shocks — while uncovering quite important things.

The editor's first-rate introduction sets the stage for the interviewees' personal accounts, imaginatively prefacing the personal and professional lives of his subjects. The introductory comments, like the editorial arrangement of the sheriffs' words, are made with the X-ray eye of the skilled



journalist who has the insights and vision of the sensitive historian. Sitton constructs a vivid mirror for projecting each personal account into the big picture of Texas history. Arranged by individual person, no editorial comments interfere with the subjects' stream of consciousness; yet, the subtle skill of the sequential presentation is apparent.

*Texas High Sheriffs* humanizes the development of this ancient office in rural Texas in a way reminiscent of the great western chronicler Louis L'Amour. Sitton catches the essence of the office as it was, sensing the direction toward which it is evolving, all in the unpretentious language of the men who manned the office during a crucial transition period of Texas law enforcement.

The essential character of the rural sheriff and of rural Texas is highlighted. At the outset, Sitton effectively galvanizes the reader's expectations, establishing a rolling connection between the institutional roots of the office and its practical evolution in the street. Starkly running like an unbroken thread throughout the accounts is a "mystique of legitimate violence," defining rural voters' demands for a "fighting sheriff." Sheriffs serving after World War II clearly chafed under the effects of the civil rights' movement on their discretionary powers.

A recurrent impression is one of the intense dedication of these men to this low-paying, dangerous job. A kind of primeval folk-wisdom prevails, providing glimpses of the dynamics of survival in rural law enforcement, including responses to technology and urbanization.

Of particular interest are colorful instructions on "How to:" make moonshine whiskey, train and use tracking hounds, and break horses — stories which reveal the subjects' backgrounds and depict the translation of youthful experiences into practical tactics of sheriffling. Such rustic experiences transferred to catching bootleggers, safecrackers, and cattle rustlers, as well as prescriptions for nabbing drunks, dopeheads, and mental defectives. Whatever the youthful background of these men, the notable consistency in their careers was their almost fatalistic fearlessness.

The versatility required of rural sheriffs was magnified by lack of the technological devices that now enhance the investigative work of the modern sheriff. Even so, several of the subject sheriffs instinctively became skilled criminal investigators. The unique relationships between the rural sheriff and his constituents are displayed graphically by these tales. The impact upon the sheriff's family of the job's incredible consumption of his time and energies is vividly emphasized. An interview with one sheriff's wife tells of the rigors of raising a family in the jail (where the sheriff's family usually lived). The intergovernmental relations of the sheriff are well-portrayed.

Essentially untrained men took this office — each for different reasons — worked, fought, studied, adapted, and applied themselves assiduously to the task, for meager pay and at great hazard of their privacy and their

lives. One can understand how the office of sheriff has persisted through the upheaval of historical growth as our oldest common law public office.

The original tapes of these interviews are filed with the Barker Texas History Center at the University of Texas at Austin. The spirit of the tapes delightfully comes alive in *Texas High Sheriffs*.

James G. Dickson, Jr.  
Stephen F. Austin State University

*The Capitol Story: Statehouse in Texas*, by Mike Fowler and Jack Maguire, with Noel Grisham and Marla Johnson. (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 23069, Austin, Texas 78735) 1988. Photographs and Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. P. 182. \$29.95 Hardcover.

I wouldn't lie about a thing like that; I got the book — *The Capitol Story: Statehouse in Texas* — for the picture on the dust jacket. I liked it as soon as I saw it; two cowboys riding down Congress Avenue sometime around the turn of the century. The picture is wet and cold and rainy, and there are street cars and buggies and people moving around — and the State Capitol looms up, stage center, as the background to the whole scene. G. Harvey of Fredericksburg painted it. At one time I checked on the price of a print, but when I recovered from financial shock I decided that the better part of wisdom was to buy the picture that had a book wrapped in it. I framed the dust jacket, and it hangs in my wife's office, a treasure to her sentimental little Austin-lovin' heart.

There you have it, unvarnished.

Lest, however, you've been told not to judge a book by its jacket, let me say that it's OK to do so in this case. Great jacket, great book! *The Capitol Story* is that great a book that it took four people to write it: Mike Fowler and Jack Maguire, with Noel Grisham and Marla Johnson. They have all hung around the Austin scene long enough to have the proper love and respect for it.

About three-fourths of the book is a fascinating, detailed history of all the dopey, bureaucratic cartwheels a provincial government goes through building state capitols, with emphasis on the present one, of course. The rest is personality pictures of downtown Austin, nostalgia trips for everybody who ever wandered up and down Congress Avenue when that street really was the spoke on the hub of Texas. Looking at Austin then, you could still see the Capitol, before it was lost in all the high-rise, rich-bitch banks and oil towers.

But, back to the Capitol. Our founding fathers, pulsating egos as they were, dragged the state capital around to a half a dozen places before M. Buonaparte Lamar won the tug-of-war. He chose for the site of the capital of the great state of Texas the sleepy little village of Waterloo (pop. four families) located on the banks of the Colorado near the corner of First

and Congress. Those fathers built a frame capitol a block west of Congress with a stockade wall to hold off the Indians, and that was the seat of a Texas government from 1839 to 1853. The first building that looked like a state capitol was a tall courthouse-looking limestone building, located at the north end of Congress, where the present Capitol is located. It was put into service in 1853, and lasted until it went up in a roaring blaze in 1881. The present Capitol, grand and glorious building that it is, was begun in 1882 and was dedicated in 1888. And if you haven't wandered through it lately, observing the bronze hinges and doorknobs and the cast-iron stair rails and the carved woodwork, you need to. It will make you proud.

All of that is just an outline, of course. The details will amuse and amaze you. Sam's natural inclination was to have the capital in Houston — where else! — and an episode in the midst of those political shenanigans was Mrs. Eberly's shot heard round the corner in the Archive War as Sam tried to spirit the state records away from Austin. And did you know that Texas has paid for the land the Capitol was built on three times and still does not have a clear title? And did you know that Texas not only has the largest statehouse in the U.S., taller than the big one in D.C., but that it is the most expensive? Texas paid *ten*! Panhandle counties — which soon after became the site of the XIT (Ten in Texas) ranch — for the Capitol. In 1882 that part of the Staked Plain was pretty poor real estate; its oil and gas and irrigation pumps have now made it worth billions — all of which is moot. The Capitol was built with convict labor working the granite and limestone quarries and with Scottish scab labor as stonecutters and masons. And it is good that the Goddess of Liberty is perched high and away from the scrutiny of a discerning public, because she is so ugly that — “She is so ugly that they had to hog-tie her mother before she'd let her nurse.” The original 1888 zinc statue was replaced in Sesquicentennial 1986 by an aluminum clone, but sad to say the casters did not improve her features.

But I refuse to divulge all the secrets of this book, with which if I had a cavil, it would be with its lack of documentation — but, then, it had such a great dust jacket.

Francis Edward Abernethy  
Stephen F. Austin State University

*Wildlife and Man in Texas, Environmental Change and Conservation*, by Robin W. Doughty (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843) 1989. Photographs. Index. P. 226. \$12.95 Paper.

Robin Doughty, historical geographer, herein presents a survey of Texas wildlife, environmental change, and conservation since 1820. Omitting the Hispanic and Indian impact, the author focused on the Anglo-Americans and divided Texas into three regions. Of these, East Texas and

the Rolling Prairies received significant attention.

Doughty noted that innovative Anglos came to Texas and lived off the land. Then the author described the vast range of beneficial and dangerous wildlife which Anglos hunted for profit and recreation. Extensive, wasteful hunting of wildlife, plus competition of farming for land use, reduced the wildlife population. Texans then became enchanted by introducing foreign plants and animals for economic reasons rather than increasing Texas' wildlife potential. This development "massively disrupted and reconstructed native fauna and flora" (p. 154). Finally, on the eve of the Civil War, Texans began to demonstrate concern for wildlife through game and later fish and bird laws. With increasing national concern for conservation, federal laws formed the foundation for wildlife management. As a result Texas became a principal beneficiary of the federal fish hatchery program. Recently Texans have realized that each region has a unique and complex set of wildlife factors necessary for future conservation and management.

Readers will find an interesting book with appropriate anecdotes from travelers accounts, yet one that is balanced with sound scientific research. Originally published in 1983, this reprint should have been revised to incorporate the latest research and also remedy the superficial analysis of farming. But these are minor notations regarding this very significant contribution to the history of Texas wildlife.

Irvin M. May Jr.  
Blinn College at Bryan  
and College Station

*Down the Corridor of Years: A Centennial History of the University of North Texas in Photographs 1890-1990*, by Robert S. La Forte and Richard L. Kimmell (University of North Texas Press, P.O. Box 13856, Denton, TX 76203-3856) 1989. Color and Black and White Photographs. Index. P. 281. \$35.00 Cloth.

Although the 1950s are short-changed (I'm biased, of course ... similar comments undoubtedly will be heard from graduates of the 1930s, 1940s, 1960s, etc.), the centennial history of the University of North Texas fares extremely well in comparison with other commemorative efforts.

This offering by Robert LaForte and Richard Kimmel does so for two major reasons. One is the judicious selection of photographs from what must have been a virtually limitless supply; the other is the University of North Texas Press, which has produced an absolutely splendid book in a technical sense, reproducing color and black and white photographs marvelously between the covers of a first-rate coffee-table-sized book.

There is text, of course, accompanying each chapter (divided roughly into two-decade eras), but the authors wisely limit their written history

to short, salient facts, relying on the photographs to chronicle the university's transition from its Normal College beginnings to its full-fledged university status of today.

Of particular interest are the earliest photographs, many dating to before the turn-of-the-century, although former students obviously will be more interested in photographs from their era (I, for instance, was particularly intrigued with shots of Voertman's and the Eagle Drugstore, along with a tennis team photograph identifying a young Larry McMurtry, but leaving unidentified my close friend and No. 1 team seed, Don Coppedge).

In any work covering such a lengthy period, there are certain to be omissions and oversights. One of the more noticeable is the lack of recognition for M.E. "Gene" Hall, known throughout the country for his pioneer work in jazz education. Although dozens of photos abound featuring various areas of NT's Music Department, including the famous One O'clock Lab Band, only one brief outline mentions that Hall founded the Lab Band program when he was director from 1947 to 1959, and Hall isn't even in the photograph accompanying the outline.

But perhaps that is nit-picking because the authors do feature a photograph and give due credit to another oft-overlooked North Texas giant, Cecil E. "Pop" Shuford, who founded the respected journalism program in 1945.

The principal aim of the book ... to chronicle a century of the university in photographs ... is accomplished, and accomplished well.

Ken Kenamer  
Stephen F. Austin State University

*Southern Baptists of Southeast Texas, A Centennial History 1888-1988*, by John W. Storey and Ronald C. Ellison (Golden Triangle Baptist Association, 2710 IH 10 East, Beaumont, TX 77703) 1988. Charts. Photographs. Foreward. Index. P. 261.

John Storey and Ronald Ellison, history teachers at Lamar University and McCullough High School (Conroe I.S.D.), respectively, have written a commendable history of Southern Baptists in Southeast Texas. Their book includes the expected statistical and event listings but there is more.

The authors have broken the story into chapters detailing approximate decades. They weave into the text brief but telling glimpses of the state and the nation during each period. They also have collected a sufficient number of personal anecdotes from the lives of principal characters in the story to keep the most non-zealous historian aware that history is about real people. A case in point is the description of Peyton Moore, current director of missions for the Golden Triangle Baptist Association, fleeing South Viet Nam in 1975. Moore and his family had been

missionaries in Southeast Asia until events, too familiar to us all, drove them from that land.

The authors have used all major Baptist histories available to them along with a wealth of primary sources to tell their story. The book should be on the reference shelves of educational institutions, public libraries, and church libraries throughout East Texas.

Jerry M. Self  
Education Commission,  
The Southern Baptist Convention

*Letters to Oma, A Young German Girl's Account of Her First Year in Texas, 1847*, by Marj Gurasich (TCU Press, P.O. Box 30776, Fort Worth, TX 76129) 1989. Illustrations by Barbara Mathews Whitehead. Glossary. P. 176. \$9.95 Paper.

The Chaparral series of juvenile books published by TCU Press contains an impressive number of award winners. Judy Alter, director of the press, seems to have an instinct for spotting and publishing some of the best juveniles in Texas. I suspect that *Letters To Oma* may well be another prize winner. For starters, it was hard to leave the cover to begin the reading. Barbara Whitehead's use of traditional German folk art in bright colors featuring birds, animals, and faces intertwined in flowers and vines is charming and draws the reader inside the pages of another world, a time long ago and a place far away. A preface offers a little history about political unrest in Germany in the 1800s and how some came to Texas under the patronage of the Society for the Protection of German Emigrants in Texas, the *Adelsverein*.

The story moves easily and naturally to the heroine, Tina Von Scholl, who leaves her beloved grandmother in Germany and comes to the frontier of Texas. Tina's story is told through letters written back to Oma. The reader is drawn into the peculiarities, hardships, laughter, danger, and adventure of frontier living. The story is predictable, including an encounter with Indians and a mountain lion. What is unpredictable involves a kidnapped baby and a family heirloom.

Marj Gurasich is a master storyteller, but equally she is in command of a writing style that pulls at the heart strings, keeps the pages turning, and offers reading pleasure for all ages. Occasionally a juvenile book reads so well that one forgets that it is aimed at a specific age range. I think of *Sunder* and *Old Yeller*. *Letters to Oma* is as good, and it, too, ought to be filmed.

Joyce Roach  
Killer, Texas

*Range Wars, Heated Debates, Sober Reflections, and Other Assessments of Texas Writing*, edited by Craig Clifford and Tom Pilkington (SMU Press, Box 415, Dallas, TX 75275) 1989. Bibliography. Index. P. 188. \$10.95 Paper. \$22.50 Cloth.

The publication of *Range Wars: Heated Debates, Sober Reflections, and Other Assessments of Texas Writing* says two things about SMU Press. It is not run by an accountant; it believes in and is committed to the writers of Texas and the Southwest.

Using Larry McMurtry's Texas Observer's essay, "Ever a Bridegroom: Reflections on the Failure of Texas Literature," an imperious, condescending, and often accurate attack on Texas "literature" and its good-old-boy philistines, as the spark that ignited a decade-long range war among Texas writers, the editors, Craig Clifford and Tom Pilkington, have brought together a collection of essays that not only provides an historical perspective to this specific battle, but also offers some sensitive insights into the world of Texas literature in general. Although many of the essays allude to McMurtry's infamous essay, the purpose of this collection is not so much to review old territory as it is to bring together some of the best writers' views on what is wrong and what is right in the world of Texas letters.

Reprinted here is A.C. Greene's list of "The Fifty Best Texas Books" that first provoked McMurtry into his attack in 1981 and, of course, McMurtry's "Ever a Bridegroom," but the most valuable essays are those perhaps less well-known.

Craig Clifford, in "Horseman, Hang On: The Reality of Myth in Texas Letters," reminiscing about his expatriatism and homesickness while living in Maryland, disagrees with McMurtry's contention that serious Texas writers must dismiss both the cowboy mythic tradition and ruralism if they want to write anything worthwhile. The question we should be asking, Clifford asserts, is not whether the myth is exhausted and ultimately self-defeating, but whether anyone has or will explore it with insight and artistry.

In "A 'Southern Renaissance' for Texas Letters," Jose E. Limon, insightfully noting that there is more judgment than explanation in McMurtry's essay, suggests that the real flowering of literature in the state will come from Texas Mexicans bolstered and nurtured by a real sense of place and a rich folkloric literature.

Clay Reynolds, in "What Does it Take to be a Texas Writer?," provides a detailed history of the literary quarrels in Texas and then wisely shows that the question is fatuous at best. The most important thing, he says, is that the writer remain committed to faithfully revealing the human condition.

That women have, for the most part, been ignored, trivialized, or

romanticized in Texas fiction is made abundantly clear in Celia Morris' "Requiem for a Texas Lady" — an essay that offers glimpses in the rich yet-to-be-explored territory awaiting the state's female writers.

Two spirited essays, James War Lee's "Arbiters of Texas Literary Taste," and Don Graham's "Palefaces vs. Redskins: A Literary Skirmish," uncover the real world of Lone Star belles lettres — a world which J. Frank Dobie, the literary dictator, self-promoter, and genuine Philistine first created and a world which the Texas Institute of Letters, taken over at various times by "fern-bar" writers from New York, Texas Monthly cronies, feminists, and university creative writing departments, has tried to sustain as the main arbiter of Texas literary taste.

Marshall Terry seems the calmest voice in this verbal dust storm, suggesting as he does in "The Republic of Texas Letters" that we need to quit bickering and try to establish a critical and spiritual community that will make Texas a positive place in which to write.

The most constructive essay is the last: Tom Pilkington's "Herding Words." He rightly points out that Texas literature is still very young and it is much too early to write its obituary. What Texans — teachers, critics, writers — must do is to help establish a literary tradition that will nurture and inspire our future story-tellers.

The fact that SMU Press chose to publish such a collection at all is evidence that Pilkington's dream is just beginning. Clearly this book is not aimed at the majority of Texans, but rather those, like the editors at SMU Press, who believe that literature has inherent value. Someone there has seen the need to put the quarrelling past behind us and get on with the business of creating a healthy climate in which the state's writers can work.

Michael Adams

The University of Texas at Austin

*Cowboy and Gunfighter Collectibles: A Photographic Encyclopedia With Price Guide and Makers Index*, by Bill Mackin, photographs by Nancy S. Bostain (Mountain Press Publishing Co., P.O. Box 2399, Missoula, MT 59806) 1989. Photographs. P. 172. \$19.95 Paper. \$26.95 Cloth.

Author Bill Mackin was introduced to the world of the cowboy through the Saturday matinee — the world of make-believe instead of the real thing. Even so he did try being a cowboy, and before reaching the age of twenty he even tried being a rodeo star. As it is more fun to play cowboy than to be a real one, Mackin became a collector of cowboy realia. Mackin's experience was limited but he also had years of studying Will James, Jo Mora, and cowboy equipment.

This book is titled an encyclopedia but more properly should have been termed an introduction to cowboy collectibles. Forty different item



classifications are listed — from cowboy advertising to Winchesters. Several examples of each item are illustrated so the novice can understand what items are discussed in the few pages devoted to each category.

Even though there is great interest in the Old West the readily available references usually concentrate on specific and popular items such as the Colt revolver or the Winchester. Reference sources dealing with a wide variety of cowboy equipment are not common. This work fills a gap in that respect.

Mackin's price guide to all items pictured gives the reader an idea as to the value of listed items. Some are nearly unobtainable — such as the Colt Dragon pistol priced at \$3,500 — but many are within the range of the beginning collector at less than \$100. The average western buff will certainly enjoy this work.

The term "gunfighter" in the title is misleading because virtually all items discussed specifically are tools of the cowboy and few can be classified as belonging to the gunfighter. The badges and weapons are perhaps gunfighter oriented, but the reader who is looking for gunfighter specifics will be disappointed.

Chuck Parsons  
South Wayne, Wisconsin

*The Warren Wagontrain Raid*, by Benjamin Capps (Southern Methodist University Press, Box 415, Dallas, TX 75275) 1989. Apologia. Map. Photos. Notes. Index. P. 305. \$10.95 Paper.

This book tells the story of the Warren Wagontrain Raid, or the Salt Creek Massacre, which took place in northern Texas, in May 1871. A war party of over a hundred Kiowas under Chief Satanta, including Chiefs Big Tree and Satank, left their reservation at Fort Sill and attacked a ten-wagon train of freighters bound for Fort Griffin. The Indians had earlier let pass a small military detachment that included General William T. Sherman.

The attack killed seven teamsters. Afterwards the Indians plundered the wagons and defied pursuit by the Army by re-crossing the Red River. Upon their return to Fort Sill, the Kiowas boasted of their exploits, leading to the arrest of the three chiefs by General Sherman. Satank was killed in a suicidal escape attempt; the other two chiefs were tried and imprisoned for murder in Texas. The incident had a profound effect on the thinking of General Sherman in regard to frontier military policy.

The author has written an exhaustively researched account of this incident, and has mastered a great mass of primary and secondary source material to give a complete and accurate account of it in a detailed and well-written book. However, the author's fictionalizing of the story — adding imagined dialogue and details and describing the thoughts and

feelings of the characters — was and is a controversial writing technique. In his "Apologia" in this edition, the author ably defends his approach as leading to a better, more understandable narrative. Perhaps. But while it may be magnificent literature, it is not pure history. Nevertheless, this book is to be recommended highly for its research and detail, even if parts of it must be read guardedly.

Robert D. Norris, Jr.  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

*Cattlemen vs Sheepherders*, by Bill O'Neal (Eakin Publications, Inc., P.O. Drawer 90159, Austin, TX 78709-0159) 1989. Bibliography. Photographs. Index. P. 212. \$16.95 Hardcover.

The struggles between sheepmen and cattlemen has been the stuff of dozens of scriptwriter's and novelist's plots. And, if Bill O'Neal is correct, the animosity and fighting that occurred was as bitter and bloody as Western myth and fiction suggests. In this book, which is long on storytelling and short on analysis, O'Neal argues that over a five-decade period, 1870-1920, more than fifty people and 53,000 sheep died in the Western conflicts. It is not a pleasant story.

The basis of the conflict, contends the author, was grassland. Sheep and cattle raisers both sought good grass, and as they looked they encountered one another, usually on government land. The resulting conflict produced outrage and violence, with sheepmen usually suffering the most.

In many ways the book is well done. O'Neal carefully reconstructs the ranching wars in nine Western states with emphasis on Texas, Wyoming, Colorado, and Arizona. But there are problems. The author seems to ignore the wide-spread cooperation in Texas that existed between cattlemen and sheepmen, and he fails to note that in West Texas many sheepmen also raised cattle. In East Texas there was little difficulty between the two groups. Some of the death counts — for both humans and sheep — of which the author makes note were caused by Indians or outlaws, or they resulted from farmer-cattlemen violence, not from cattlemen-sheepmen antagonism.

Nonetheless, the book has merit. Warfare did indeed exist, and men died in the conflicts. The author has made us painfully aware that in several Western states reality challenges myth.

Paul H. Carlson  
Texas Tech University

*The Whorehouse Bells Were Ringing and Other Songs Cowboys Sing*, collected and edited by Guy Logsdon (University of Illinois Press in Urbana) 1989. Photographs. Musical Notations. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. P. 388.

*Git Along, Little Dogies: Songs and Songmakers of the American West*, by John I. White with a Foreword by Austin E. Fife. (University of Illinois Press in Urbana) 1989. Photographs. Musical Notations. Bibliography. Discography. Index. P. 221.

You had to have been there to get the beauty of it hot. The setting was the Folklore Section of the 1988 meeting of the Texas State Historical Association. Guy Logsdon, impeccably suited in western attire, the sort of man over whom your wife gets a whiplash, was on the program after John Henry Faulk gave his talk about how he made a political liberal out of J. Frank Dobie. Guy strode to the podium, announced his topic "BAWDY COWBOY SONGS!" in clear, unmistakable terms, and suggested that those gentle souls of Victorian persuasions take that opportunity to leave without prejudice. None wishing to be identified with the prudish, all stayed, even those wishing to take advantage of the break to go to the rest room. Guy subsequently launched into an unblushing (for him) discussion of what cowboys really sang about between snatches (not a pun) of "whoopy ti yi yo, git along, little dogies." He flung four-letter words out among the dodging audience as if he were sowing for the harvest, and it was an education for us all.

I had long known that the Chisholm Trail cowboy who awoke with "a rope in his hand and a cow by the tail" was using a euphemism, or perhaps a substitution. And when Grandad sang, "Old Lank Kate, she's a good old squaw; She lives on the bank of the big Washita," I knew even in my youth that there was something more involved than meditations on the noble savage. Guy Logsdon completely rends the veil in "*The Whorehouse Bells Were Ringing*."

No minor amount of research was involved in this scholarly treatise. One does not just step out on the street or stroll in a rest home and ask some idling ancient to sing him a dirty song, cowboy or otherwise. Guy worked years on these songs, fighting his soul's corruption by these sinful sallies and enjoying every battle of it. The result was sixty-one, field-collected songs from working cowboys. The songs are not all about cowboys; they are the songs, both the sacred and profane, that real cowboys sing, and Guy presents them in scholarly and sometime startling detail. Accompanying each entry is a full discussion of sources, song history, and variations (as in the "Strawberry Roan" we all sing and "The Castration of Strawberry Roan" that bawdy cowboys sing). He concludes with notes on field collections and manuscripts, bibliographical references, and discography.

As scholarly as "*Whorehouse*" is, Guy Logsdon's style is smooth

and easy and as conversational as if he were talking to you. Put this book on your coffee table and wait for your first guest to say, "What the ...!"

John I. White's *Git Along, Little Dogies: Songs and Songmakers of the American West* lacks Logsdon's snappy title but is equally informative. White was radio's Lonesome Cowboy during the 1920s and 1930s and provided the musical interlude for six years of NBC's *Death Valley Days*. He published books of cowboy songs and recorded twenty songs, during which time he was employed full time in mapmaking for General Drafting Company. White was a guit-picking city slicker, as was Guy Logsdon, who liked cowboy songs and got fairly famous singing them. And during all his time as an entertainer he was studying the songs, reading about them, writing authors, and collecting song books and sheet music. When he retired from map making in 1965 he got out his old files and began writing. *Git Along* was first published in 1975; this 1989 publication is a paperback reprint.

*Git Along* is an interesting variety of essays on cowboy songs and singers. Some of the chapters deal with the history of the songs, tracing them from their inceptions through all their meanderings among the folk before White, The Lonesome Cowboy, incorporated them into his repertoire and sent them out over NBC's airways. That most popular of cowboy songs in the 1930s, "Home on the Range," has not yet been officially run to ground, but the search by a defense lawyer for its beginnings is a fascinating tale of skillful detective work. "Strawberry Roan" had a strange career, beginning with Curley Fletcher's composition of "The Outlaw Broncho" in 1915. White traces the song and its progeny through all of its commercial manifestations in song books, on records, through a Ken Maynard movie and a lawsuit, but missed Guy Logsdon's "The Castration of the Strawberry Roan." You need both books, you see, to get the complete picture of cowboy songs.

Some chapters deal with the singers themselves and the songs they wrote such as D.J. O'Malley and his "When the Work's All Done This Fall," and Gail Gardner, who wrote "Tying a Knot in the Devil's Tail," and Carl Sprague, the 1920s Victor recording artist who popularized "The Cowboy's Dream." White's concluding chapter is a discussion of the two pioneer collectors of cowboy songs and ballads, Jack Thorp and John Lomax, who were the true pioneers in the collecting and publication of cowboy songs, in 1908 and 1910, respectively. He concludes with a critical and analytical bibliography of cowboy songs and where to find them, in books and on records.

Cowboys and cowboy poetry have been much in style lately, I guess ever since the big Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada, in 1985. All working cowboys who are also poets are probably worn out by now from having to read their poetry in every western state, Texas, and Oklahoma. And they are still writing. I think that is great. The poetic urge is universal. Education and environment have nothing to do with it. It is

genetic, and when a cowboy is hit with the intensity of some aspect of his work, it is most natural that he cast the experience in poetry. And all you have to do to prove that assertion is read the books discussed above.

Francis Edward Abernethy  
Stephen F. Austin State University

*Mexican American Biographies: A Historical Dictionary, 1836-1987*, by Matt S. Meier (Greenwood Press, 88 Post Road West, Westport, Conn. 06881) 1987. Preface. Acknowledgments. Appendices. Index. P. 296. \$45.00 Cloth.

*A Dictionary of Mexican American Proverbs*, by Mark Glazer (Greenwood Press, 88 Post Road West, Westport, Conn. 06881) 1987. Preface. Introduction. Bibliography. List of annotated materials. Indexes. P. 376. \$39.95 Cloth.

Owing to restrictive boundaries dictated by the subject matter, the challenge of compiling a utilitarian dictionary requires a greater investment of intellectual energy and creative writing than a more conventional enterprise of historical research and composition. Both Matt S. Meier and Mark Glazer fall into the former category with the publication, respectively, of *Mexican American Biographies: A Historical Dictionary, 1836-1987* and *A Dictionary of Mexican American Proverbs*.

A professional historian by training, Matt S. Meier gained pragmatic insight into the problems and pleasures of compiling and editing a sourcebook when he and Feliciano Rivera earlier in the decade produced *Dictionary of Mexican American History*. Capitalizing upon prior experience, and cognizant that no useful tool of basic information about Hispanics existed in libraries, Meier resolved to correct that deficiency by creating a reference handbook that identified *prominentes* in the Mexican American community from the period of the Texas Revolution in the mid-1830s to the present time.

With thoughtful deliberation, Meier selected 270 cameo biographies of which the majority detailed the lives of contemporary personalities in the arts, education, politics, sports, and other areas of achievement. The author-compiler devoted considerable attention "to include women and men representing virtually all important fields of endeavor." A pervasive theme throughout the volume is an obvious commonality of effort in the cameos that clearly illustrates the ongoing struggle of Mexican Americans to attain full acceptance — socially, economically, and politically — in the mainstream of national life.

An outstanding feature of this reference tool is the insertion of a wider scope of background information about each of the personalities, such as their intellectual and social antecedents, academic training, advancement in their chosen fields, and hallmark accomplishments as reflected

by appointments, awards, and prizes. Admittedly, the spotlight fell primarily on professional and public roles, with the most prominent meriting indepth histories. To a degree that he has raised the level of consciousness of the readers, Meier has admirably succeeded with his new and significant contribution.

Anthropologist Mark Glazer energetically utilized the rich and extensive Rio Grande Folklore Archive at Pan American University in south Texas to construct the framework of *A Dictionary of Mexican Proverbs*. Generally regarded as rustic popular wisdom, proverbs are perceived as traditional sayings deeply rooted in oral folklore. According to Glazer, proverbs are valued as a medium of making "potentially profound and culturally appropriate" comments in an ordinary yet difficult human encounter.

To provide a new dimension for *A Dictionary of Mexican American Proverbs*, Glazer included contextual and sociological backdrops to highlight each *dicho* "from the perspective of its actual use." With prudent editing, the compiler and his associates assembled 986 entries based on currently used sayings and amplified by annotative data. To give the volume additional utility, they arranged the entries in alphabetical order, beginning with the concept of *abrazar* (to embrace) and concluding with *zapato* (shoe). Indices and tables for a variety of items facilitated rapid access to a large corpus of information, including the date and location where the proverbs were recorded and terse explanations on the informants who shared interpretations about the proverbs.

Both *Mexican American Biographies* and *A Dictionary of Mexican Proverbs* will be welcome additions to libraries at all levels, as well as to serious scholars in Borderlands, Chicano, Hispanic, and folklore studies. Even humanities scholars and social scientists will find something of merit in these two volumes. The only glaring drawback is a high list price that may discourage a few researchers from buying the books but not from consulting them in peaceful reading nooks in most libraries.

Felix D. Almaraz, Jr.

The University of Texas at San Antonio

*"Pecos Bill," A Military Biography of William R. Shafter*, by Paul H. Carlson (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843) 1989. Illustrations. Maps. Photographs. Bibliography. Index. P. 225. \$34.95 Hardcover.

William R. Shafter is best remembered as the obese, unpopular, and often criticized commander of the United States Army's expedition to Cuba during the Spanish-American War. Paul Carlson argues that scholars have been too ready to dismiss Shafter as the ludicrous, 300-pound "floating tent" who served in 1898 and have failed to examine the general's long

and distinguished career in the frontier Army. Through extensive research in the government records, regimental and post returns, personal papers, and secondary books and articles, Carlson demonstrates that Shafter was a capable leader, an aggressive combat commander, and an important figure in the military pacification of Texas. The book's strength is the detailed study of the numerous small scouting expeditions, killing marches, and occasional skirmishes which characterized Shafter's military operations in the Southwest. It also provides a perspective on such elements of frontier life as post social life, the relations between black troops and white settlers, and the violent personal rivalries between officers.

Carlson makes a good case that Shafter should be remembered for the fine record he made as a regimental officer and not solely for his mediocre final command. However, although he often comments that Shafter was an unpleasant and dislikable person, Carlson may be faulted for becoming too sympathetic to his subject. His dismissal of Shafter's critics as "uninformed," "arrogant," or "whining" (p. 194) overlooks that if Shafter embodied many of the strengths of the frontier constabulary, he also personified its weaknesses. Most of Shafter's military career was spent in an army which asked little more than of its officers than courage, stamina, and an ability to tolerate isolation, qualities Shafter demonstrated in abundance. His inability to be anything beyond a brave regimental officer became all too apparent when he commanded the military forces of the new empire.

Brian M. Linn  
Texas A&M University

*Del Pueblo, A Pictorial History of Houston's Hispanic Community*, by Thomas H. Krenck (Houston International University, 2102 Austin Street, Houston, TX 77002) 1989. Photographs. Index. P. 246.

Houston, once that most Waspish of towns, belatedly but diligently is documenting its increasingly diverse ethnic mix. Five years after the publication of Fred R. von der Mehden's applauded *Ethnic Groups of Houston* appears the most complete work to date on the city's burgeoning Spanish-speaking contingent.

Already heralded by the local media and the Latino community, the book blends a myriad of insightful photographs with a solid narrative carrying a biting edge that distances it from the coffee table genre which it initially resembles. Krenck, assistant archivist at Houston Metropolitan Research Center, traces the progress of a miniscule nineteenth-century enclave to its present position as the fifth largest Hispanic population in the nation, boasting political, business, and media leaders. While correctly underscoring the multitude of prejudicial barriers erected against the group, the author's omission of non-Spanish countervailing forces fails to focus sharply the relationship between the smaller and larger communities. Still,

sufficient discrimination is noted to question Houston's traditional claim to toleration, a point worthy of further study.

A bevy of photographs embracing the sweep of history instantly arrests the reader. Drawn from numerous collections, the posed and spontaneous visuals silently and forcefully express a triumph of the spirit. This uneven and unfinished success story should enhearten the impatient in the *barrios* and reassure the apprehensive in the suburbs. All should thank Kreneck for this contribution to knowledge and to community pride.

Garna L. Christian  
University of Houston-Downtown

*Between the Enemy and Texas: Parsons' Texas Cavalry in the Civil War*, by Anne J. Bailey (Texas Christian University Press, P.O. Box 30776, Fort Worth, TX 76129) 1989. Bibliography. Maps. Index. P. 400. \$25.95 Hardcover.

This is the first complete history of Parsons' Confederate brigade in the Trans-Mississippi Department. The Twelfth, Nineteenth, Twenty-first, and Morgan's Texas Cavalry regiments, as well as Pratt's artillery battery, volunteered from across North, Central, and East Texas in 1861-1862. Because of conflict over command between Colonel William H. Parsons and Colonel George Washington Carter, the brigade frequently fought in two groups.

The Twelfth Regiment helped defend Little Rock, Arkansas, in early 1862 before the other regiments arrived during the summer. The brigade failed to reach Arkansas Post, which fell in January 1863, and suffered through harsh winter weather. In the spring of 1863 Carter led the brigade, except the Twelfth Regiment, in John Marmaduke's unsuccessful raid into Missouri. Parsons directed two regiments in disrupting Union-run plantations in Louisiana in an effort to relieve Vicksburg during the summer of 1863. Carter, with the other regiments, participated in the unsuccessful defense of Little Rock that fall. The brigade helped repulse the Red River Expedition in Louisiana during the spring of 1864. The regiments then camped in Arkansas and Texas before disbanding in May 1865.

Bailey presents a lively account based upon excellent research. A lengthy appendix explores the changing leadership of the brigade. In an epilogue the author concludes that the soldiers exhibited aggressiveness and devotion to some officers, but little discipline. Some distinction might have been developed between the tactics of small raids and larger battle situations. Yet this is one of the finest unit histories written about Texans in the Civil War.

Alwyn Barr  
Texas Tech University



*Ethnicity in the Sunbelt: A History of Mexican Americans in Houston*, by Arnoldo De Leon (Mexican American Studies, University of Houston, 323 AH, Houston, TX 77204-3783) 1989. Maps. Photographs. Index. P. 255.

Arnoldo De Leon's history of Houston Mexican-Americans is both a synthesis of existing literature and a clarion call for additional research in this growing field of historical study. Drawing inspiration in part from his own writing in nineteenth-century Tejano studies and in part from the work of scholars in recent urban and ethnic history, De Leon has undertaken a difficult and ambitious task. As he gratefully acknowledges in his ample footnotes and extensive bibliography, a good deal of the preliminary spadework already has been done by several historians working in the ethnic history of Houston. Arturo Rosales, Tatcho Mindiola, and Thomas Kreneck — to name just a few — have provided the author with a scholarly head start. De Leon has done some of his own digging, too, primarily in the developing collections of Mexican-American materials in the Houston Public Library and the University of Houston. The result is the first scholarly synthesis of Houston Mexican-Americans.

Houston is an interesting case study of Mexican culture. The city's entrepreneurial background and the absence of a resident Tejano population meant that the Hispanic experience was a twentieth-century phenomenon with direct ties to Mexico. De Leon makes it clear that an important part of the dynamics of the Latino culture in Houston was a tension within the Hispanic community between ethnic and historic ties to the *lo mexicano* tradition and the eroding effects of *lo americano* influences. It is De Leon's emphasis on this conflict that helps portray Houston Mexican-Americans as dynamic actors with a distinctive past rather than simply as victims of Anglo prejudice and injustice. Neither is this solely a study of Hispanic elites, though figures such as Felix Tijerina, national president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), get their due. Rather, this is mostly a book about grass-roots community building and ethnic identity in an urban setting.

Professor De Leon has clear sympathies for his subject, and his treatment of such topics as the "*movimiento*" activism of the 1960s suggests that he has a personal political agenda for Houston Hispanics. But his study is relatively free of didacticism, and clearly the author is at his best in describing the socio-economic divisions within the *colonia* and the ideological diversity which has characterized its internal struggles.

None of this means, of course, that *Ethnicity in the Sunbelt* is a perfect book. No doubt many will think it too uneven in coverage, or perhaps too thin on research. But then the author makes no claims to finality and seems to welcome revision. Most of all, he has served notice that Mexican American History is an important part of Houston's past which

deserves more attention than it has received. In that way, this study is a very welcome addition to the history of Houston and Texas.

Charles Orson Cook  
St. John's School, Houston

*Gaston High School, Joinerville, Texas, and a Boy Named Billy Jack*, by William T. Jack (J & N Press, Campbell, TX) 1989.

Two decades ago I took a graduate course in literature from Professor William T. Jack at East Texas State University. Dr. Jack was witty, opinionated, lively, humorous, and thought-provoking. Now retired, he has written a reminiscence of his boyhood and adolescence in Corsicana and Joinerville. *Gaston High School, Joinerville, Texas, and a Boy Named Billy Jack* is witty, opinionated, lively, humorous, and thought-provoking. It is intensely personal, a story of poignant family relationships and of growing up in the East Texas oil field during the Depression.

The Jack family was prominent in early Texas history; Corsicana boasts a rich past; and young Billy Jack arrived in Joinerville just as the Gaston School became the largest and one of the wealthiest rural school districts in the world. Jack relates details of this interesting background with the insight of a sensitive and articulate observer, artfully reviving memories of a vanished time and place. There are fascinating reflections about the Southern way of life, about movies and dancing and sex and the Gaston Red Devil Band. One riveting chapter offers the best account ever published of the tragic New London School explosion of 1937. The book contains more than two dozen photographs, most previously unpublished, as well as a number of suitable literary quotations. *Gaston High School, Joinerville, Texas, and a Boy Named Billy Jack* is a slice of life, permanently reviving characters and customs of an earlier East Texas, along with the coming of age of a bright young misfit named Billy Jack.

Bill O'Neal  
Panola College

*The Southwestern Division. 50 Years of Service*, by D. Clayton Brown, Jr. (Department of the Army, Southwestern Div., Corps of Engineers, 1114 Commerce St., Dallas, TX 75242) 1988. Photographs. Footnotes. Bibliography. Index. P. 196.

Every year sixteen percent of the land area of the United States is affected by the work of the Southwest Division Corps of Engineers. The Army created the Corps of Engineers, Southwest Division, in 1937 to consolidate the work of existing divisions in the Southwest. The past fifty years have included work during the Dustbowl and Depression to seaports of Catoosa and Houston. This is a chronicle of the Division's operations from 1937-1987.

As the first publication of the division's official history, it is a valuable reference. It provides an opportunity to observe the sociological and economic impact of projects such as the McClellan-Kerr Waterway and the Trinity River Waterway. Where large gaps exist in records, Brown, working in conjunction with the division's Historic Committee, does an excellent job of interpretation. Retired employees also provided Brown with information that was unavailable elsewhere. In fact, through these lengthy interviews of retired employees, the Division's earliest history unfolds.

Since each of the division's five districts published its own history, special care has been taken not to merely reiterate previous publication. However, topics not covered in this work can be found in the district publication. The book is arranged in ten chapters that concentrate primarily on management function and perspectives of the Southwest Division. Each chapter includes superb photographs that greatly enhance the reader's understanding of the division's work. Adding to its value as a reference source, it has an extensive bibliography that includes archival materials, interviews (including addresses of persons interviewed), government documents, and Corps of Engineers documents.

Projects undertaken by the Southwestern Division have had a profound impact on the history of the Southwest. Dams that provide waters for millions, aiding in the wake of natural disasters, and the building and improvements of military installations are all enterprises of the Division. *The Southwestern Division: Fifty Years of Service* is an accurate, objective, and sincere chronicle of work done by hundreds of dedicated workers and the roles they played in changing the face of the Southwest.

Maura Gray  
Dallas, Texas

*The George Kirksey Story, Bringing Major League Baseball to Houston*, by Campbell B. Titchener (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 90159, Austin, TX 78709) 1989. Bibliography. Photos. Index. P. 197. \$16.95 Hardcover.

For six decades there were only sixteen major league franchises. Expansion finally occurred in 1961, after supporters of the Continental League threatened to establish a rival major league. Four years later one of the expansion teams, the Houston Astros (originally the Colt .45s), moved into the "Eighth Wonder of the World." The Astrodome was the world's first covered stadium, and when outfielders began to lose fly balls against the glass roof, a paint job shut out the sunlight, killed the grass, and necessitated the development of Astroturf.

Major league expansion, domed stadiums, and artificial playing surfaces have exerted revolutionary influences over baseball. A primary moving force behind the creation of the Continental League, the Houston

major league club, and the Astrodome, was George Kirksey. Born in 1904 in Hillsboro, Kirksey became a sportswriter for the local newspaper, attended The University of Texas, wrote for the Dallas *Morning News*, then was hired by United Press. He covered twelve World Series for UP, along with numerous other major events, and became one of the most famous sportswriters of the 1930s. During World War II he obtained a commission and served the army in a public relations capacity in the European Theatre.

After the war Kirksey relocated in Houston, established a public relations firm, and helped to found a Civil War Round Table. Soon Kirksey became obsessed with bringing big league baseball to the booming city, and he was a founding father of the Houston Sports Association. With prodigious enthusiasm and singleness of purpose, for years Kirksey led a determined campaign which eventually produced the Continental League, the Colt .45s, and the Astrodome. Kirksey worked for a time in the team's front office, but in 1966 he was squeezed out by Judge Roy Hofheinz. A gourmet and wine connoisseur, Kirksey began to spend much of his time in Europe, visiting three-star restaurants and driving race cars. He was killed in France in 1971 in an auto accident, but his estate created a handsome scholarship fund for journalism students at the University of Houston.

Possessed of frenetic energy, an encyclopedic mind, and a capacity for winning friends, the eccentric Kirksey also could be exasperating and generally disagreeable. But he led a glamorous and fascinating life, and the landmark effects he helped to bring to baseball make him worthy of the biographical treatment provided by Campbell B. Titchener, a professor of journalism at the University of Houston.

Bill O'Neal  
Carthage, Texas

*Ronald Reagan and the Public Lands: America's Conservation Debate 1979-1984*, by C. Brant Short (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843) 1989. Index. P. 178. \$27.50 Cloth. \$13.95 Paper.

The centennial of the official closing of the frontier is an appropriate time to ask questions about our present state of mind regarding our society's long-lived ambivalence toward the natural environment. C. Brant Short explores the issue of "preservation versus development" during a period when the nation's political leadership shifted from a Democrat administration comfortable with the 1960s-era conservation consensus to a New Right directory hostile to the notion of restricted access and use of government-owned lands. The author's interest is in a rhetorical analysis of the contemporary political process rather than a close study of the evolution of the conservation movement.

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Short begins his analysis with the Sagebrush Rebellion of the late 1970s when a small group of Westerners, some of them influential political figures, called for the transfer of federally owned lands to the individual states. The "lifeblood" of this movement, says Short, was its rhetorical imagery drawn from the Revolutionary War — aimed largely at a Western audience and drawing financial support from conservative think-tanks. Although this movement failed to change the character of federal land management, the author points to its importance as a forerunner of the more profound effort to reorient government policy during the Reagan administration, when New Right activists — epitomized by Interior Secretary James Watt — advocated radical privatization of public lands. Perhaps the best part of the book is Short's discussion of Watt's tenure as an effort to use "resource policy to symbolize the New Right ideology in operation," promoting "a human-centered management philosophy that placed people at the top of a resource-use hierarchy" (pp. 59-60). Indeed, such may be the book's most useful insight: demonstrating that Reaganism exemplified (despite appearances) a strong, elemental strain of secular humanism, intent upon elevating human economic needs as the ultimate criteria shaping the destiny of public lands. Yet, within three years, Watt had resigned, and his ambitious privatization scheme was shelved in favor of less rancorous and more moderate alternatives.

Former Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus asked in 1983, "Did we inherit this land from our forefathers or did we borrow it from our children?" According to Short, this question is far from answered as we approach the turn of the century. For residents of states such as Texas, with large tracts of public lands, this book provides a useful analysis of Reagan-era policy debates over resource management.

Scott L. Bills

Stephen F. Austin State University

*The Rating Game in American Politics*, by William D. Pederson and Ann McLaurin, Editors (Irvington Publishers Inc., New York, NY) 1987. P. 410.

*Grassroots Constitutionism: Shreveport, The South, and The Supreme Law of the Land*, by Norman W. Provizer and William D. Pederson, editors (University Press of America, Lanham, NY) 1988. P. 192.

As our empirical experience grows, we learn that nothing happens in a vacuum. This phenomenon applies to constitutions and to the evolution of constitutional law. Our work as teachers and researchers uncovers linkages connecting the creative stimuli of cause and effect in the making and analysis of history.

In our public life, we adhere to the rule of law; if there is any consensus on what this means, it is that no one is above the law.

Constitutional restraints upon the exercise of public power and leadership concepts are important in the relations between people and governments within the evolving character of American democracy.

The years 1987 through 1991 encompass the bicentennial celebration of the United States Constitution. The creation of these two volumes by faculty members of Louisiana State University at Shreveport makes a useful contribution to our measurement of the leadership factor in American constitutionalism. *The Rating Game* is a collection of original and previously published essays focusing on the quality of American political leadership and the development of interdisciplinary techniques for ranking persons in positions of political leadership.

Concentrating initially upon ranking of American presidents as a dilettantish exercise by specialized scholars, social scientists have developed more scientific classification schemes for understanding the essential character of democratic leadership.

The major rankings of presidents are included, beginning with the original poll by Arthur Schlesinger. James David Barber's predictive typology of presidents is presented, along with a comparison of presidential personality types with respect to national amnesty policies.

Essays reporting the ranking of American Secretaries of State by diplomatic historians provide an interesting appraisal of the leading lights in this cabinet post. The connection between centralized and decentralized staffing practices by presidents and the mutual dependence between presidents and their staffs highlight the importance of White House politics as an element of presidential leadership.

An interesting expansion of the rating game is the poll ranking the ten greatest United States senators. Blaustein and Mersky's ranking of Supreme Court justices is also included.

A series of cross-national essays had nothing directly to do with American political figures, but it places the process of understanding effective leadership in an international perspective. Particularly fascinating is the late Barbara Tuchman's inquiry into the persistence of "wooden-headedness" among governmental leaders.

The bulk of the book is taken up with biographical essays on leading Americans who have held the offices of president, United States senator, Supreme Court justice, secretary of state, and persons who have held no public office. These are typical fare, each stressing distinguishing characteristics of the subjects which led to their being ranked in the great or near-great class.

*Grassroots Constitutionalism* contains fifteen original essays limning the effects of federalism on American constitutional development. Through local events, issues, and individual public figures, the essays explore the extent to which national constitutional issues are molded for their national

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level resolution. The reaction of local elements of the federal system in stimulating emergence of these issues as matters of national concern is a recurrent theme of the book.

*Grassroots* examines historical, legal, and political linkages whereby provincial constitutional conflicts are catapulted into the national arena. Introductory essays reiterate the major premises of American constitutionalism and the ways in which these assumptions are reflected in the constitutional development of Louisiana.

Intermediate essays draw biographical sketches of major Louisiana judicial personalities who have played an active part in shaping constitutional issues at the state level and in the United States Supreme Court. To these conceptual discussions and judicial characterizations, the final essays add specific court cases and the issues within these cases which rose to become matters of national concern.

The two books have no direct relation to each other. *The Rating Game* is represented as the first interdisciplinary rating game text. Both have some utility as supplementary readings texts in classes in history or political science, though *Grassroots* is more regionally limited than *The Rating Game*.

James G. Dickson, Jr.

Stephen F. Austin State University

*The Cattlemen*, by W.R. McAfee (Davis Mountain Press, P.O. Box 2107, Alvin, TX 77512) 1989. Photographs. Index. Limited Editions. \$29.95 Hardcover.

This book is about Wade and Roy Reid, brothers and cattlemen who operated a ranch in the Davis Mountains of the Upper Big Bend Country of Texas. It covers the long period from the 1890s to the 1970s but concentrates on the years after 1930. It is an account of a working cattle ranch managed carefully by its owners through blizzards, droughts, and depression.

The book represents an interesting tale, but it is not good history. The author, who worked for the Reids for several summers, is really an editor who has put together a number of interviews, including a lengthy one with Roy Reid. The other interviews are with people who knew the Reids. There are dozens of pictures on quality paper, but most of them are without captions, rendering them nearly meaningless.

The Reids grew up in the Tulia area of the Texas South Plains with little interest in farming. They bought a few cattle while still youths and drifted south to the Davis Mountains. They worked for area ranchers, spent their money on cows and land, and eventually went to work for themselves.

The Reids were generous, friendly cattlemen who put in long hours

tending their spread, the Eleven Bar (11). They lived simple but self-sufficient lives, getting by without electricity until the 1960s and sleeping in bedrolls on the ground for more than a decade while putting together their ranch, and learning about the outside world from occasional visitors, infrequent trips to town, and an ancient battery-operated radio that brought them Fort Worth livestock reports each morning.

The book is incomplete. It lacks broad themes and clear focus. In many ways it is more a romantic memoir of the author's youth than a biography of Wade and Roy Reid, the cattlemen it has attempted to depict.

Paul H. Carlson  
Texas Tech University

*Rodeo Cartoons from The Buckboard*, by Walt LaRue. (Guy Logsdon Books, Box 520982, Tulsa, OK 74152-0982), 1989. P. 135. \$12.95.

Walt LaRue drew cover illustrations for *The Buckboard* from 1945 to 1952, when that magazine ceased publication. *The Buckboard* was the official publication of the Rodeo Cowboys Association (now the PRCA), and if anybody was qualified to be its official illustrator, Walt was. He was a rodeo cowboy himself, and for fifteen years rode bareback horses, bulls, and saddle broncs. Walt knew of what he drew. He wove a cartoon style that was part Charles Russell, Will James, and J.R. Williams, but mostly Walt LaRue; and he drew pictures that captured the feel of the rodeo arena from the cowboy's perspective. He must have been good because his readers loved him, and they reveled in his depiction of themselves winning and losing, drunk and busted, and high and lonesome.

Walt was good at a lot of things, and he did a lot of things. He started out in his youth as a guide and packer in Yosemite and Glacier National Park and the high Sierras. He moved from that to his rodeo and cartooning days where he fell in with Richard Farnsworth, of the *The Natural* and *Silver Fox* fame. Both of them ended up in Hollywood, riding and stunting in cowboy movies during the Western and horse-opera craze of the 1950s and early 1960s. He was a guitar picker and singer and did some recording. And he continued to draw cartoons, one of his major sponsors being Levi's.

Walt is almost retired from the rough stuff now, but he still rides and stunts for the movies when a good show comes along. And he still paints, mostly oils and acrylics. Walt has lived a good life, good mainly because he was able to do what he thoroughly enjoyed doing. And he was paid well for doing it.

Walt's cartooning days were one large part of a long life, but this was the part that caught Guy Logsdon's fancy early on. These pictures fit into Guy's love of cowboy art and literature. Therefore, as an initial publication for his new publishing company, Guy is presenting Walt to

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the western art and literature public. Guy himself is just off the press with his classic *"The Whorehouse Bells Were Ringing"* and *Other Songs Cowboys Sing*, from the University of Illinois Press. Guy says, "In my quest to make a living, I have always found honest ways to lose money; publishing is my newest." He is following his book of Walt's cartoons with Christmas poems by a New Mexico cowboy. If Guy is wearing a fancy western suit the next time you see him, you will know he is doing well.

Francis Edward Abernethy  
Stephen F. Austin State University

*Edwin Fay of Vermont and Alabama, 1794-1876*, by Mary Smith Fay (Houston). 1988. Index. P. 161.

Mrs. Fay wrote this family history as a supplement to Orlin P. Fay's *Fay Genealogy: John Fay of Marlborough and His Descendants*, which was published almost a century ago. The original history dealt with the period prior to the Civil War. This new family history, which is complete in itself, deals with the accomplishments of the later life of Edwin Fay and brings his descendants down to the present day.

The book begins with Edwin Fay's descent from John Fay of Marlborough, Massachusetts, who arrived in 1656 on the *Speedwell* from England. Nearly two hundred biographies are included with fourteen of them the seventh generation from Edwin and Harriet Fay.

The family moved from Massachusetts to Maryland, southward to Georgia, and then to Alabama. In the past three hundred years, the descendants have scattered all over the world.

Mrs. Fay, who is a certified genealogist, has carefully documented this volume and included a bibliography to aid further research. Numerous photographs, both old and new, have been reproduced. The numbering system is recommended by the National Genealogical Society and enables the reader to follow the individual without difficulty.

Fay descendants owe Mary Smith Fay a debt of gratitude for her excellent work compiling this family history.

Carolyn Ericson  
Nacogdoches, Texas

*A River Swift and Deadly*, by Lee Carraway Smith (Eakin Publications, Inc. P.O. Box 23069, Austin, TX 78735) 1989. Maps. Photographs. Index. P. 200. \$16.95 Hardcover.

It is a pity the book just misses being as good as the title.

Nevertheless, this narrative of the 36th Infantry Division's attempts to cross the Rapido River against stout German resistance and difficult terrain and weather conditions in January 1944, based largely on interviews

with survivors, is a worthwhile piece of oral history.

All veterans of the division and some Texans with long memories know the story: two regiments badly mauled, a bitter challenge to the tactical judgment of General Mark Clark, and a congressional investigation after the war which exonerated the establishment hierarchy. The division commander, MG Fred Walker, summed up the bitterness "It was a tragedy that this fine division had to be wrecked ... in an attempt to do the impossible" (p. 86).

Perhaps the best aspect of this account of a tragic battle is the table of casualties, by unit, which the author includes in an appendix — a fearful number of them Texans in a division which long since had lost its character as a true Texas National Guard division. In the 141st Infantry Regiment they numbered 156, in the 143rd, ninety-two, and in the 111th Engineer Battalion, one.

Preparation for the book involved 117 interviews with participants in the battle. But here, unfortunately, is where the author bogged down. There is a lack of cohesion and chronology in presenting the interviewees' quotations, along with an unease with "army speak," which good editing would have eliminated. These are the only genuine complaints.

Still, WWII buffs and a fast declining number of 36th veterans will want this on their shelves.

Max S. Lale  
Marshall and Fort Worth

*Border Fury: A Picture Postcard Record of Mexico's Revolution and U.S. War Preparedness, 1910-1917*, by Paul J. Vanderwood and Frank N. Samponaro (University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, NM) 1988. Photos. Index. Bibliography. P. 293. \$29.95.

Penny postcards were the junk mail of the age of American innocence. In 1913 alone, the Post Office Department handled nearly one billion views of local sites and grander vistas. Along with the mass circulation newspapers and magazines and the new motion picture industry, they comprised the mass media of the age. Thus far, however, they have been left to gather dust in attics and a handful of speciality shops.

In *Border Fury*, two historians, Paul J. Vanderwood and Frank N. Samponaro, have used this under-used resource to provide a vivid visual history of the Mexican Revolution and the Pershing Expedition, drawing on more than 20,000 cards, located in dozens of collections. The major subjects of the printed collection are combat scenes, views of the U.S. Army experimenting with new weapons and mechanized vehicles, and human interest photos, including "General Francisco Villa — The Cause Of It All."

In their highly readable analysis of the cards and the messages they

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carried, the authors argue that the producers of the post cards framed American understanding of border events and fostered the stereotyping of Mexicans.

Vanderwood and Samponaro also explain the commercial side of the trade by describing the brief career of the most successful local entrepreneur, Walter H. Horne of El Paso. The Maine native worked in the financial district of Manhattan for several years before he moved westward, seeking relief from tuberculosis. In El Paso, he supported himself as a pool hustler until the Mexican Revolution furnished visual subjects for his Kodak 3A camera. As the Revolution heated up, Horne established his preeminent position in a market with about one hundred competitors. He even beat out the International Film Service of New York and the Max Stein Company of Chicago, among the biggest producers in the world, by turning his local connections into competitive advantages, often gaining exclusive access to bloody executions and other saleable scenes. He died a rich man in 1921, at age 38, leaving behind a visual legacy which has now been renewed in *Border Fury*.

Roger M. Olien

University of Texas - Permian Basin

*Best Editorial Cartoons of the Year: 1989 Edition*, by Charles Brooks, Editor (Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA) 1989. Illustrations. Index. P. 160.

For seventeen years the series entitled *Best Cartoons of the Year* has proven to be highly entertaining as well as enlightening in regard to what has happened in the United States. A banner year surely was 1988. With such a multitude of subjects to choose from, American cartoonists had a "field day." In politics, the Republican and Democratic primaries were rife with inconsistencies and paradoxes; the last year of the Reagan Administration was filled with wonderful ironies; and the political debates between George Bush and Michael Dukakis and Lloyd Bentsen and Dan Quayle were hilarious to portray.

American cartoonists had a wide range of topics which merited their attention. Besides noting the annual peregrinations of Congress in regard to the deficit, defense, and foreign affairs, they depicted the religious dilemmas which had to do with the movie *The Last Temptation of Christ*, Pope John Paul II defining the role of women in regard to motherhood and the home, and the ludicrous frailties of such television evangelists as Jim and Tammy Bakker, Jerry Falwell, and Jimmy Swaggart. They also focused upon Attorney General Ed Meese and the scandal concerning steroids and drugs at the Olympics in 1988. And they chronicled the American scene regarding ecology, the homeless, crime and the courts, and health issues, while paying their respects to such notables as cartoonist Charles Addams and athlete "Pistol" Pete Maravich.

Consequently, anyone who wishes to see United States society and the world through the art of the cartoonist's pen will again find *Best Editorial Cartoons of the Year* delightfully refreshing and enjoyable.

Ben Procter  
Texas Christian University

*Spoiling For A Fight, The Life of John S. Roberts and Early Nacogdoches*, by Joe E. & Carolyn Ericson (Texian Press, Box 1684, Waco, TX 76703) 1989. Photographs. Sketches. Bibliography. Index. P. 250. \$17.95 Hardcover.

Texas has been a magnet for the type of character the authors have chosen to use as a foil about which to weave a story of the life and times of East Texans immediately before, during, and after the founding of the Republic. Semi-scoundrel, entrepreneur, land speculator, man of affairs, family man, but ready at the least provocation to drop everything to get into the thick of a brawl or a full fledged gun firing fight: that was John S. Roberts.

When he was not engaged in fighting at the Battle of New Orleans, the Fredonia Rebellion, the Battle of Nacogdoches, the Storming of Bexar, Cherokee Indian campaigns, and the Cordovan Rebellion, he found time to wheel and deal in land, operate a mercantile business, be a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, and spend endless hours in court battles relating to some of his rather shady and unethical business and land manipulations. The reader is kept in suspense constantly wondering in what next scrape Roberts will find himself.

One very important and interesting feature of the book is the copious, well-researched set of notes that follow each chapter. Every person named is identified completely regarding his background and place in Texas history.

A first reading is pure enjoyment. A second reading makes you aware of the tremendous amount of factual Texas history you have absorbed.

Along with the other East Texans such as Houston, Rusk, and Starr, John S. Roberts may now take a place as a true Texian patriot.

Charles K. Phillips  
Nacogdoches, Texas